

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20, 22-24, 26, and 29-41 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 26, and 29-35 have been amended. Claims 25 and 42-61 have been cancelled. The amendments to the claims as indicated herein do not add any new matter to this application. Furthermore, amendments made to the claims as indicated herein have been made to exclusively improve readability and clarity of the claims and not for the purpose of overcoming alleged prior art.

I. CLAIM REJECTIONS--35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-20, 22-24, 36-41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated Lang et al., U.S. Patent No. 7,272,298 (hereinafter “Lang”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants have amended Claim 1 to include the features of Claim 25. The Office Action has stated that Claim 25 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Therefore, Claim 1 is allowable. Claims 2-20, 22-24, 36-41 are dependent upon independent Claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e).

II. ALLOWABLE CLAIMS

The Office Action states that Claims 25-26, 29-35 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended Claim 1 to include the features of Claim 25. As noted above, Claim 1 is allowable.

III. CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

The Applicants believe that all issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed and that allowance of the pending claims is appropriate. Entry of the amendments herein and further examination on the merits are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (408) 414-1214 to discuss any issue that may advance prosecution.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee that may be due in connection with this Reply to our Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: December 31, 2008

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